



Bethel Betty Larabee

April 7, 1929 - November 11, 2022

Bethel Betty Larabee, 93, of Kalkaska County, passed away on November 11, 2022.

Born April 7, 1929 in Kalkaska County, Bethel was the daughter of the late Claud W and Flora (Golden) Eckhardt. Bethel married Cleo Devere (Dee) Larabee on May 31, 1959 and continued to be a lifelong resident of Kalkaska County.

Bethel grew up farming with her father, which became a passion of hers, even learning to butcher for farmers in the area. Later Bethel began artificially inseminating cattle for farmers in Kalkaska and Antrim counties. One proud memory of Bethel's was birthing Triplet calves on her own farm. Bethel farmed in Excelsior Township with her husband until his death in 2006.

Bethel was a very supportive and influential person in the Community. She was involved in 4-H, the Kalkaska County Fair, the Excelsior Township Board from 1975-2021, and the Kalkaska Memorial Hospital Board serving unselfishly for many years. She even attended and was a part of the 2022 groundbreaking for the new addition at the hospital.

Besides farming Bethel enjoyed gardening, growing beautiful flowers, and most of all reading. Reading was much more important than trivial daily

chores, such as cleaning the house. She was a very well-read, intelligent woman.

Preceded in death by her husband Devere Larabee and her brother Alvin E. Eckhardt, Bethel is survived by her sister Lois R. (Eckhardt) Krepps of Freesoil and her brother Robert C. Eckhardt of Byron Center; and several nieces, nephews and the many friends she picked up along the road of life.

The funeral service will be Thursday, November 17, 2022 at the Kalkaska Funeral Home at 2:00 p.m. with a visitation 1 hour prior to the service. Burial will be in the Excelsior Township Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any Hospice organization, or to the Kalkaska Animal Shelter on behalf of Bethel.

Arrangements were made by the Kalkaska Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Excelsior Township Cemetery

1225 CR 571
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S. Cedar
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-3346

Funeral Service

NOV 17. 2:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S. Cedar
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-3346

Tribute Wall

“ I am sorry to learn that Kalkaska County has lost a very dear and dedicated citizen. Bethel was a rock of the community for far more years than many in the community were born. I have known Bethel and her family all my life. She was an individual I always looked up to. She was caring and loving and so dedicated to Kalkaska as a whole. She gave of herself unselfishly, be it to 4-H Leadership, township leadership, county leadership, you could always count on Bethel being there and doing her part and more.

She had a quiet way about her, and a warm smile that was welcoming to all. Kalkaska County would not have had a County Fair, had it not been for Bethel and Betty Dunham having a vision that it could be done. They conducted the County Fair for far more years than anyone knew, and they did a good job of it.

Bethel was a very intelligent Lady!! She did like to read and she willingly passed her books to others to read and learn. She was not quick to make decisions without weighing the pros and cons before moving forward.

Bethel Larabee and Betty Dunham were the go to Ladies in getting things done. These two ladies would dash out in the worst of weather, even in the middle of the night, in the coldest of winter, to provide food and hot drinks to the firemen when they were called out on fire runs. This was remarkable and greatly appreciated.

Bethel was a "Farmher" from her early years, and long before this title was thought about. She worked tirelessly on her family farm with her family, and years after that with her husband, Dee on their farm.. They were wonderful folks.

There were very few areas of the county that Bethel had not served in, right up to fairly recent years. She served quietly, but you could count on her to do the right thing no matter what she was involved in.

I shall cherish my memories of this "Amazing Lady" for the rest of my years and know that I have served my County with such a dedicated and honest person. REST IN A VERY DESERVED PEACE, BETHEL until we meet again. God Bless!

*Patty (Jackson) Rodgers,
Kalkaska County Clerk--Retired*

rodgers - November 20, 2022 at 11:09 AM

AL

I am so sorry too hear of my Aunt Bethel going. One of the few in the community that I ever felt was real to it. If my Father Robert Larabee we're around. Id tell my Dad you better go find me some flowers in Aunt Bethel's pasture. Because in Honesty that was one Hard working women I looked up too. Know matter what people said. My Aunt Beathel I will treasure till the day I pass on. I Anthony Robert Larabee am deeply saddened by her loss. As far as being adopted in 1973 to the Larabee family. My Aunt Bethel deserves .A special Thanks she wasn't stuck up, she never left a town , she was a hard worker. Peace Be Unto You Aunt Bethel! In many ways you helped me carry on when family and courts sold us out. For that I'll always Love You. I know we spoke together more than once. Your one person I'll never forget you were never too rich too sell out your own! God Bless

Anthony Robert Larabee - April 26, 2023 at 06:09 PM

BS

“ Rest in heaven Bethel. It was nice being your neighbor for nearly 17 years. Such a kind hearted lady loved her flowerbeds. They always looked beautiful. Special to so many in.the community. 🙏🙏

Brenda Shaddon - November 15, 2022 at 08:49 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Bethel Betty Larabee.* ”



November 14, 2022 at 01:15 PM